

EN080.04
Spring 2013, MWF 2:00-2:50
Classroom: Stokes 461S

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Office Hours: Friday 12:30-1:30pm or by appointment



Reading the Remix

Course Description

This course explores the ways in which we, as participants in culture, generate and rejuvenate that culture through the telling and retelling of stories in new and interesting ways. We will read a wide range of texts, exploring them in order to see how they are both rooted in what came before them, as well as how they are the raw material for later (re)productions. The texts are grouped roughly into pairs, for example the Old English poem *Beowulf* and John Gardner's 1971 novel *Grendel*; Shakespeare's *King Lear* and Christopher Moore's comedic adaptation *Fool*, and so on.

As a “core” class, this course is designed to introduce you to the study of literature. Its stated goals are: to instruct you in how to perform “close-reading,” analysis, and interpretation of literary texts; to help you to improve your ability to write clear, coherent, organized, and grammatically and stylistically competent prose; to increase your awareness of literary genres and terminology; and to foster in you a greater understanding of the ways in which history and culture can help shape and reshape the human imagination.

Required Texts

It is important you get the specific editions listed with an asterisk (*), the rest you may find as you please.

**Beowulf*. Translated by R. M. Liuzza (Broadview: 9781551111896)
Gardiner, John. *Grendel* (Vintage: 9780679723110)
*Shakespeare, Wm. *King Lear* (Arden: 9781903436592)
Moore, Christopher. *Fool*. (William Morrow / Harper Collins: 9780060590321)
*Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice* (Oxford World's Classics: 9780199535569)
Moore, Alan (et al.) *V for Vendetta* (Vertigo: 9780930289522)

Evaluation

Studentship:	25%
OED / Word History Assignment:	5%
Midterm Test:	15%
Midterm Paper:	15%
Final Paper:	20%
Final Exam:	20%

Studentship

You will notice that a quarter of your grade falls under “studentship.” Good studentship means a number of things, including (among other things) attendance, participation (in class and online), and attitude. Good studentship entails the following: coming on time to class each day, with the day’s readings **in hand**; making evident that you have read the material, by contributing meaningfully to in-class discussions and performing well on in-class work, including any quizzes, in-class assignments, and group work; and contributing meaningfully and with direct citation of the works discussed to online discussion prompts as they are assigned.

Schedule

Week 1:

- (1) Mon. Jan. 14 – First Day / Course Introduction / Syllabus Given
- (2) Wed. Jan. 16 – Lessig & Doctorow / Remix Theory 101 / Syllabus Quiz
For today: read Lessig and Doctorow articles, study syllabus for quiz
- (3) Fri. Jan. 18 – Beowulf (Liuzza pt. 1) A/S History & Context / Feuds
For today: read Liuzza p. 13-19 “*Beowulf* Between Myth and History”; Liuzza p. 53-56 “Prologue” & Fit I

Week 2:

- (4) Wed. Jan. 23 – Beowulf (Liuzza pt. 2) Old English Language & Beowulf
For today: read Liuzza p. 41-48 “*Beowulf* Between Old and Modern English”; Liuzza p.57-91 Fits II-XVIII
One Word Assignment Given
- (5) Fri. Jan. 25 – Beowulf (Liuzza pt. 3) Old English Meter
For today: read Liuzza p.20-24 “*Beowulf* Between Song and Text” (first five pages); Liuzza p.92-110 Fits XIX-XXVI

Week 3:

- (6) Mon. Jan. 28 – Beowulf (Liuzza pt. 4) Beowulf & the Monsters
For today: read Liuzza pp.110-150 Fits XXVII-XLIII (end)
- (7) Wed. Jan. 30 – Beowulf (Liuzza vs. Meyer) Poetic Meter I
For today: read Meyer p.36-117 Fits 1-18
- (8) Fri. Feb. 1 – Beowulf (Liuzza vs. Meyer) Poetic Meter II
For today: read Meyer p.118-154 Fits 19-26 (end “Oversea”)
One Word Assignment Due

Week 4:

(9) Mon. Feb. 4 – Beowulf (Liuzza, Meyer, and Heaney)

For today: read Meyer p.155-258 “Homelands”

Midterm Paper Assignment Given

(10) Wed. Feb. 6 – Grendel (Gardner)

For today: read Gardner p.1-45 Chapters 1-3

(11) Fri. Feb. 8 – Grendel (Gardner)

For today: read Gardner p.46-90 Chapters 4-6

Week 5:

(12) Mon. Feb. 11 – Grendel (Gardner)

For today: read Gardner p.91-137 Chapters 7-9

(13) Wed. Feb. 13 – Grendel (Gardner)

For today: read Gardner p.138-174 Chapters 10-12

(14) Fri. Feb. 15 – King Lear pt. 1) Early Modern English History & Context / Midterm Review

For today: read *Lear* p.89-110 “The Inception of *King Lear*”

Week 6:

(15) Mon. Feb. 18 – King Lear

For today: read *Lear* Act I

(16) Wed. Feb. 20 – King Lear

For today: read *Lear* Act II

(17) Fri. Feb. 22 – King Lear

For today: read *Lear* Act III

Week 7:

(18) Mon. Feb. 25 – **Midterm**

For today: Study everything up to the end of week 5 (including the introductory material on *Lear*)

(19) Wed. Feb. 27 – King Lear

For today: read *Lear* Act IV

(20) Fri. Mar. 1 – King Lear

For today: read *Lear* Act V

SPRING BREAK

Week 8:

(21) Mon. Mar. 11 – Fool

Midterm Paper Assignment Due

(22) Wed. Mar. 13 – Fool

(23) Fri. Mar. 15 – Fool

Week 9:

(24) Mon. Mar. 18 – Fool

Final Paper Assignment Given

(25) Wed. Mar. 20 – Fool

(26) Fri. Mar. 22 – Pride and Prejudice pt. 1) The Rise of the Novel

Week 10:

(27) Mon. Mar. 25 – Pride and Prejudice pt. 2) Satire

(28) Wed. Mar. 27 – Pride and Prejudice pt. 3)

Week 11:

- (29) Wed. Apr. 3 – Pride and Prejudice pt. 4)
- (30) Fri. Apr. 5 – Pride and Prejudice pt. 5) P&P vs. the Fans

Week 12:

- (31) Mon. Apr. 8 – Pride and Prejudice pt. 6) P&P vs. the Movies
- (32) Wed. Apr. 10 – Pride and Prejudice vs. Pride and Prejudice and Zombies I
- (33) Fri. Apr. 12 – Pride and Prejudice vs. Pride and Prejudice and Zombies II

Week 13:

- (34) Wed. Apr. 17 – V for Vendetta pt. 1) Graphic Novels and Visual Narrative
- (35) Fri. Apr. 19 – V for Vendetta

Week 14:

- (36) Mon. Apr. 22 – V for Vendetta
- (37) Wed. Apr. 24 – V for Vendetta vs. V for Vendetta I – The Film
- (38) Fri. Apr. 26 – V for Vendetta vs. V for Vendetta II – Anonymous' Appropriation

Week 15:

- (39) Mon. Apr. 29 – Good Copy Bad Copy / Remix Theory Close-out
- (40) Wed. May 1 – Exam Review

Final Paper Due: Friday, May 3.

Final Exam: TBD (Between Tues. May 7 – Tues. May 14)

Policies

Attendance Policy

Each class, attendance will be taken with a sign-up sheet or in-class assignment. It is your responsibility to ensure that your name is recorded. Students are allowed two unexplained absences without any affect to their grade. Any further unexplained absence without a documented medical excuse will be considered an **unexcused** absence, resulting in a percent loss from that student's final grade. **Five unexcused absences will result in a student failing the course.** Student athletes who inform me of anticipated absences will be excused, but will be required to keep up with any work missed (please see me).

Late Policy

An assignment's grade will drop **one third of a letter grade** for each day late: for example a B+ paper will become a B paper, and then a B- paper, and so on. **Work that is a week late will not be accepted, and will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment.**

Plagiarism:

The BC Policy on Academic Integrity states: "Plagiarism is the deliberate act of taking the words, ideas, data, illustrations, or statements of another person or source, and presenting them as one's own.

Each student is responsible for learning and using proper methods of paraphrasing and footnoting, quotation, and other forms of citation, to ensure that the original author, speaker, illustrator, or source of the material used is clearly acknowledged." Always consult with me if you are in doubt. **Any form of plagiarism will, at the very least, result in a failing grade in this class.**

Accommodations for Disabilities

If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with Kathy Duggan (kathleen.duggan@bc.edu), Associate Director, Academic Support Services, The Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or ADHD) or Paulette Durrett (paulette.durrett@bc.edu) Assistant Dean for Students with Disabilities (all other disabilities). Advanced notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.